Failure of PDS

*498. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System is a failure and PDS shops remain open only on two or three days in a month; and

(b) the measures taken to eradicate persistent recurrence of hunger and starvation in the particular regions?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The management of Fair Price Shops (FPS) for distribution of commodities under the Public Distribution System (PDS), including the regular opening of shops, rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations who have prescribed the days and timings for the same which is also required to be displayed on the Notice Boards of the Fair Price Shops.

In pursuance of the commitment to ensure food security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System (PDS) so as to serve the poorest of the poor, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 to provide foodgrains at subsidised rates to one crore AAY families who are the poorest of the poor. The AAY families were provided 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month@ Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice. The scale of issue under the AAY was increased to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from 1st April, 2002.

WLL in Rajasthan

*499. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for providing WLL system to facilitate expansion of telecom network in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, WLL system would be made available to the State?